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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 001166

SIPDIS

STATE PASS TO IO COLLECTIVE
STATE ALSO PASS USAID/W
STATE FOR PRM/ANE, EUR/SE, NEA/NGA, IO AND SA/PAB
NSC FOR EABRAMS, SMCCORMICK, STAHIR-KHELI, JDWORKEN
USAID FOR USAID/A, DCHA/AA, DCHA/RMT, DCHA/FFP
USAID FOR DCHA/OTI, DCHA/DG, ANE/AA
USAID FOR USAID/AA:NATSIOS
USAID FOR DCHA/OFDA:WGARVELINK, BMCCONNELL, KFARNSWORTH
USAID FOR ANE/AA:WCHAMBERLIN
ROME FOR FODAG
GENEVA FOR RMA AND NKYLOH
DOHA FOR MSHIRLEY
ANKARA FOR AMB WRPEARSON, ECON AJSIROTIC AND DART
AMMAN FOR USAID AND DART

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: TFIZ01: DART ABUSE PREVENTION UNIT

SUMMARY

1. The DART Abuse Prevention Unit has been activated to identify, monitor, prevent, and respond to human rights abuses and protection issues in Iraq. Since arriving in Kuwait, the APU has briefed military units, NGOs, ORHA, and the USAID Reconstruction Team on the importance of reporting on reprisals and human rights abuses and the central role of the APU in that process. The APU is coordinating its work closely with State (PRM/DRL), NSC, and DOD. End Summary.

APU BRIEFINGS

2. On 25 March, in coordination with several non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the DART Abuse Prevention Unit (APU) completed an official Request For Information (RFI) with the Humanitarian Operations Center (HOC) that would formally ask forward Coalition units to begin reporting on human rights issues. The APU is working with the Military Liaison Unit (MLU) to develop additional instructions for military personnel to identify and better characterize human rights violations using the Rapid Assessment Form.

3. During a meeting with Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) on 25 March, the APU received a sample of "Survey Questions for Determining Human Rights Abuses". The APU will use these as a basis for its own assessments. PHR also raised the possibility of establishing joint NGO / DART teams to monitor human rights abuses.

4. The APU has distributed 200 "Field Guides to Preventing, Mitigating, and Responding to Human Rights Abuses" to Coalition forces and NGOs, including Interaction, PHR, the International Organization for Migration, and others. An additional 800 Field Guides are scheduled to arrive by the end of the week and will be rapidly distributed. Many Coalition units and NGOs have asked the DART for additional copies of the Field Guide, and the APU is considering ordering an additional 2,000.

5. On 26 March, the APU met with senior staff at ORHA to discuss plans for preventing, deterring, and responding to human rights abuses. ORHA expressed strong support for APU's program and offered assistance, including ensuring that the APU will have maximum access in country and offering to recruit additional Abuse Prevention Officers (APOs) if necessary. The APU is following up with ORHA to identify potential Coalition force components that could be used to assist responding to and deterring abuses.

6. On 27 March, an APO was part of the DART assessment of Umm Qasr. General unrest after fighting was dominated by looting of government and property of regime supporters. Coalition forces there report that there may have been some "lynching" but do not know of any specific incidents to corroborate the statement. Doctors at the hospital gave no information about treating victims of violence other than war wounded.

Conclusion

7. The DART APU will continue to gather information that is crucial to the monitoring and prevention of human rights

abuses. Once the DART moves into the field, the APU will include regular reporting on human rights issues that impact political and military stability. The APU will continue to coordinate its response with other USG agencies operating in the field.

JONES